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PIONEER ONLINE

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Staff Writer Lori Valentine says auto-tune or pitch-correct software is being overused by music studio executives. Read her thoughts.

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OCCC's Visual and Performing Arts theater is scheduled to open next month. Turn inside to find out when it will open its doors and what events are planned.

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The 2014 Winter Youth Basketball league registration is under way. The season begins Jan. 4. See page 8 for more information.

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STUDENT NURSES SHARE EXPERIENCES

Student nurses recently attended a Health Professions club meeting to share their journeys in the nursing program. Read more.

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

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Play time

Students Connor Marshall as Uncle Peck and Tiffane Shorter rehearse a pivotal scene from the Paula Vogel play "How I Learned to Drive."

Issues of control and manipulation, incest and the sexualization of young girls will be explored in the play scheduled to run at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 through Saturday, Nov. 23 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

For more about the play, turn to page 6.

**KATIE THURMAN/
PIONEER**

Winter brings Seasonal Affective Disorder

If you experience a lingering mood change, seek help

KATIE THURMAN
Editor
editor@occ.edu

With the approach of semester finals as well as the holiday season, many students may find themselves suffering from unusually high amounts of stress. This stress, or other feelings, can be exacerbated by a condition known as Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD.

"Some people experience a serious mood change when the seasons change," according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. "They may sleep too much, have little energy and may also feel depressed. Though

symptoms can be severe, they usually clear up."

Mary Turner, learning support specialist, said no one should have to suffer through the disorder.

"... It does respond to treatment," she said. "Seasonal affective disorder is a type of mood disorder, so it's in the same category as depression and bipolar.

"It is characterized by, primarily, changes in ultraviolet exposure," Turner said.

"One of the glands in our brain that regulates sleep produces melatonin and sunlight — or any type of light — can shut that production down.

"So for individuals [who] are very sensitive to that ultraviolet, moving into a season where there is less sunlight can impact their feelings of sadness, put them into a depressed state and make them

less functional."

Primary care physicians often fail to diagnose seasonal depression or mood disorders. This can leave individuals who suffer from SAD feeling alienated, confused and lost, according to American Family Physician, www.aafp.org.

Turner said SAD symptoms, are "similar to any type of

depressive disorder where the person feels lethargic, and just a general feeling of unhappiness and gloom.

"There may be body aches [in addition to psychological symptoms] and people may not be able to think as clearly."

Turner said when a person

See **SAD** page 9

Volunteers sought for Christmas Connection

LAUREN DANIEL

Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occ.edu

One out of every four Oklahoma children live in poverty, which means that their families may not be able to

provide Christmas gifts.

Christmas Connection strives to help bring normalcy to struggling families lives during the holidays, said Shelly Dutton, Christmas Connection executive

See **CHRISTMAS** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Recording industry needs to cut back on using pitch-correct software

Auto-tune overused in music

Technology has been changing the face of music for many years now. One invention in particular, stands out — auto-tune or pitch-correct software.



LORI VALENTINE

So to auto-tune, or not to auto-tune: that is the question. It depends.

Technology in modern music should be for enhancement, not as a means to create instant pop stars.

When auto-tune is used for its intended purpose it can be a valuable time-saving tool in today's fast-paced music industry.

The original purpose of auto-tune was to correct inaccuracies, allowing a track to be perfectly in tune without the vocalist needing to record multiple retakes.

However, many labels tend to abuse the tool, pushing artists to use the device because it saves time and allows them to squeeze more musicians into the studio, increasing revenue. Many bands have been dropped from labels because they refuse to use auto-tune.

Auto-tune has completely conquered the music industry, leaving radio waves polluted with synthetic recording artists who lack substance and talent.

Musician Corey Taylor expressed his feelings on the state of the music industry in recent interview.

"I would say three out of four people nominated [at the Grammys] were all auto-tune artists. At that point, you shouldn't be allowed to be nominated in anything that has a vocal category. You should be nominated in an instrumental category because the computer did all the work for you. If you sound more like a keyboard than a human being, you shouldn't be allowed to walk away with one of those trophies."

This is not to say using auto-tuning techniques is entirely unjustified in the recording process.

There is a difference between using auto-tune as an effect and solely relying on the tool in order for your music to be viable. When it's used creatively, auto-tune can be a tool for artists, rather than a crutch.

But auto-tune has become a gimmick and like most gimmicks, gets used, re-used and finally, over-used.

The truth is, in this day and age, there are very few singers who can sing a whole album perfectly in key. Minor tuning issues fall through the cracks during the recording process. At that point, the engineer can either request another session with the singer or tweak with auto-tune. I have no problem with tweaking an otherwise good track and making it great with a little technology.

However, the use of it has become a prerequisite to become a successful artist in today's music industry.



It's like finding out Miss America had an assortment of plastic surgeries before receiving her crown. This is not against the rules in any way but does that make it right?

You can't make a bad person sound good — it's just not natural. Music is emotion; Auto-tune is a machine, like a robot. Robots can't love, hate, or feel sorrow, so when you think about it, you can't really have music without emotion.

It allows crummy vocalists to skip over the hard work required to perfect their craft and shoot straight up the charts to pop stardom while those who really have a gift struggle to make it or never even get the opportunity.

— LORI VALENTINE
COMMUNITY WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Black Student Association members show leadership through Open Mic event

Student group proves the future is secure, prof says

To the editor:

My heart was made happy this past Friday night, Nov. 8, in the College Union when the Black Student Association (BSA) presented their Open Mic event.

At a time when much talk centers around the lagging skill-levels and absence of values of our youth, young adults from across the city joined our BSA members to demonstrate virtuoso talent and skills that would rival those of famous artists.

Advertised as a "family friendly event," I ventured to bring two of my grandchildren with me to the open mic and we were not disappointed.

The performance modes varied from spoken

word, poetry, songs, and street rap to Christian rap. The topics sprang from the heartache and pain of failed relationships, the anger of bullying and non-acceptance, to the encouragement and jubilation of a foundation in spiritual faith, unfailing belief in God, and the value and worth of self-acceptance and love.

The talent of these young performers was truly awesome.

Most of the pieces were original, proving that yes, students can write.

Some of those performing were nervous, even before a relatively small crowd, but the encouragement of the audience and their own real desire to

perform brought them to the stage and left them with confidence and success.

Set up as a black-and-white event — a little dressed up, flavored with vegetable trays, hot wings, meat balls, and cupcakes, the atmosphere was filled with anticipation, support and hope.

My grandchildren and I left with smiles on our faces, continuous conversation about our favorite performers and performances, and the a satisfied feeling that the future is secure with talented, knowledgeable, conscientious, and caring young people such as these.

— CARLOTTA HILL
LEARNING SKILLS PROFESSOR

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author's name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be fewer than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Seeing the movie in 3D makes it even better

‘Thor’ sequel meets expectations

Marvel has proven yet again why they are the best at superhero movies with their sequel to “Thor.”

“Thor: The Dark World,” directed by Alan Taylor, has everything you would want in a movie—love, vengeance, action, comedy and unfortunately, death.

I thought this movie was better than the first in many ways.

First, it was like “Game of Thrones” meets “Star Wars.” They introduce the villain Malekith—a dark elf who sets out to darken the world with a weapon called the aether. Malekith is stopped by Bor, Thor’s grandfather.

Secondly, Tom Hiddleston who plays Loki in the film, makes the movie so much better with his wit and charm and the way he brings the character to life. He also takes the movie for a whirl a few times by creating a few twists that will have you begging for the answer.

Third, the movie focuses a little bit more on the nine realms this time around. They also show a



little bit of Viking tradition when, after a huge attack, they send the deceased bodies out to sea on ships and later, set them on fire with the ashes floating up to the sky and becoming stars. This scene was probably the most exquisite scene of the movie. The way it was edited made me feel

like I was mourning the lost but also enjoying the beauty it created.

Finally, the fight scenes were choreographed and put together amazingly, especially when Thor first appears on screen. The battle ends with him destroying what seems to be a rock giant with just one swing of his hammer.

If you are planning to see the movie, I highly recommend seeing it in 3D. It definitely makes a difference in your viewing experience. Also, do not forget to stick around until the end of the credits and I mean the absolute end, to see the teaser they have.

Rating: A

—GRANT VANWINKLE
SPORTS WRITER

BUSINESS REVIEW | Online or in-store, customer service is superb

Zumiez has cool clothes, great service

I recently decided I needed a few more clothes for this winter. I had been shopping online and I

found some things at Zumiez that I would have liked to purchase. So, one day after class, I ventured my way to the Outlet Shoppes of Oklahoma City and made my way to the store Zumiez.

I was immediately greeted with a sincere hello as soon as I entered the store. I began to look through the sales clothes. They had at least three racks of markdowns, and I believe that there were even more in the back.

I started to look for the items that I had seen on Zumiez’s website. The employee offered to help me find what I was searching for so I described the items to her only to discover they did not sell them at the Zumiez Outlet, only at the regular Zumiez.

The lady then offered to find them and order them from the website for me. At first, I was hesitant, because who goes all the way to a store to order online? She insisted on looking up the items so I finally gave in.

I found out the sweatshirt and hoodie I wanted was “buy one get one 50 percent off.”

In addition to that discount, both of the items were also individually on sale, so I ended up saving quite a

zumiez

bit of money. I even received free shipping to my house. The website did not enter the right

amount for one of the sweatshirts so the salesperson corrected that as well.

While I was waiting for my order to be completed on the cash register, I was given the store’s iPod touch so I could register for “The Zumiez Stash.”

“The Zumiez Stash” is a rewards program for customers where you can earn points toward free items and receive exclusive email updates. After a few minutes, the order was complete and I was on my way back to my house.

My trip to Zumiez was short and sweet. I left feeling very pleased because of the welcoming atmosphere, and the ease with which the employee made my shopping experience. I received my items within less than five business days and could not have been happier.

Although I did not physically purchase any items from the Zumiez outlet, I would recommend it to anyone because of their above-average friendliness, willingness to help and great customer service.

Rating: A

—LAUREN DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

JOB & CAREER POWER

Students who plan ahead get better jobs

Choosing a college major and then entering the professional workforce is one of the biggest decisions a college student will make.

The office of Student Employment & Career Services offers a variety of resources to assist and complement this process.

OCCC offers Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degree programs that prepare students for transfer to the bachelor degree granting universities both in Oklahoma and across the United States.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers in their NACE Salary Survey for September 2013 has identified the top-paying industries for bachelor degree graduates, regardless of major, as:

- Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction: \$85,733 average starting salary.
- Management of Companies and Enterprises: \$57,462 average starting salary.
- Construction: \$57,153 average starting salary.

- Manufacturing: \$55,558 average starting salary.
- Finance & Insurance: \$53,964 average starting salary.

NACE also identified the number of new graduates in the top-hiring industries:

- Educational Services: 452,700.
- Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services: 305,500.
- Healthcare & Social Assistance: 270,000.
- Federal, State, and Local Government: 203,500.
- Finance & Insurance: 95,400.

Another excellent resource for job trends is the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Outlook Handbook at www.bls.gov/oco.

Visit Student Employment & Career Services, the Advising office or meet with your faculty adviser for additional career guidance.

Student Employment & Career Services office hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

The office is located in 1G7 on the first floor in the Main Building.

For more information, call 405-682-7519, or email employmentservices@occc.edu.

—DEBRA VAUGHN
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT & CAREER
SERVICES DIRECTOR

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

PRODUCT REVIEW | Karaoke game fun for all ages

Singstar good for getting the party started

Do you like to sing karaoke?

You can karaoke from the comfort of your own home with Singstar. Made for both Playstation 2 and 3, Singstar ensures you will have hours of singing fun.

There are a wide range of Singstar discs including Singstar ABBA and Queen, but I recommend starting out with the Singstar Volumes that come with a variety of songs from different artists as well as two microphones which connect to your device via a USB adapter.

Users who have connection to the Internet also have access to the Singstore from the Playstation device. The Singstore is filled with hundreds of songs not available on discs and can be purchased for \$1.49 each. Once you have purchased a song, it is automatically downloaded to your library.

The Singstore is awesome because it has a wide variety of songs and artists from current pop hits all the way back to your favorite '80s hairbands.

Once you're ready to sing, you can choose how many players you want (you can have up to eight players but there are only two mics), what level fits your needs (easy, medium, hard), and then most importantly, your song choice.

Once the song begins, words to the song as well

as corresponding lines of pitches will appear on the screen while the video for the song plays in the background.

No more staring at words scrolling across a blank TV screen. Users must sing the note on pitch in order to gain points. At the end of a phrase, Singstar will post either "awful," "bad," "good," or "excellent" to let you know how you did on that specific part. At the end of the song, the game will tell you what you scored (between 1 and 1,000) and give you a rank name such as "rookie" or "lead singer."

If you have a Playstation camera, or "eye" as it's called, you can record your performance then watch the video and view the photos afterwards.

I've have had my Singstar game for about six years now and it hasn't gotten old. It has been the ultimate icebreaker for many parties I have hosted or have simply served to spice up a boring weekend at home.

It is surprising to me this game has not been a bigger hit in the U.S. because once you sing the first note, you will be addicted.



I enjoy this game because it takes karaoke to a new level.

With connection to the Internet, users are able to share their performances with the Singstar world, watch and rate others performances, and even sing with those they have added to their contacts list.

The best thing about it is the more your music collection grows, the more songs and the more fun you will have. With

a moderate price tag, Singstar is a great to unwind and let out your inner rock star.

Rating: A+

—ERIN PEDEN
ONLINE EDITOR

ALBUM REVIEW | Reviewer says 'Artpop' has bizarre sound

Lady Gaga album fails to impress

Hate her or love her, it's pretty hard to ignore Lady Gaga.

The pop music ingenue is currently gearing up for the release of "Artpop," her third studio album.

Admittedly, my relationship with Gaga's music has been a bit up and down over the years.

I typically champion pop music with high spirits because I like to think it's all right to appreciate something a little silly every now and then. For that reason, Gaga's first album "The Fame" and subsequent "Fame Monster" re-release were the pinnacle of the Jersey-born artist's dance-pop greatness.

However, it would seem Gaga herself let the fame of "The Fame" go to her head and what followed was 2011's "Born This Way" which was boring, self-indulgent and frankly, just not good.

I decided in the spirit of fairness, I would give the brand new "Artpop" a listen, hoping maybe Gaga would go back to her roots of creating music that was simple, fun, but still fresh and exciting.

What I found was that while "Artpop" isn't as di-

sastrous as its predecessor, it still isn't great. Perhaps now more than ever, Gaga seems to be full of herself and her ego has pushed what could be likeable tracks on "Artpop" to noisy medleys that just make me roll my eyes.

As a general rule, Gaga still seems to be just trying too hard, and the result is an album that is messy, uncoordinated and has too many things going on all at once.

It's not to say some of the things on "Artpop" aren't catchy. Among the better of the songs are tracks like "G.U.Y.," "Venus," and "Dope." Unsurprisingly, what makes these songs so good is the throwback fashion in which they're written. They transport you back to a time when most of Gaga's music was fun. The rest of the album falls short simply because it's so bizarre. "Artpop" sounds like a futuristic nightmare version of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" soundtrack, and at times, it's laughable.

Rating: D

—KATIE THURMAN
EDITOR



TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Nov. 8 through Nov. 10
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *Thor: The Dark World*
2. *Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa*
3. *Free Birds*
4. *Last Vegas*
5. *Ender's Game*
6. *Gravity*
7. *12 Years a Slave*
8. *Captain Phillips*
9. *About Time*
10. *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2*
11. *Carrie*
12. *All is Lost*
13. *Escape Plan*
14. *The Counselor*
15. *Dallas Buyers Club*
16. *Enough Said*
17. *Krrish 3*
18. *Despicable Me 2*
19. *Blue Is the Warmest Color*
20. *Disney's Planes*

STUDENTS HAVE BEEN PREPARING TO PERFORM CLASSICAL MUSIC SINCE BEGINNING OF SEMESTER

Guitar students ready to show off hard work

NATALIE DAVIS
News Writing Student

Fourteen OCCC students will take the stage at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, in room 132 in the Visual and Performing Arts Center to showcase classical music on the guitar.

They will play a particular style of acoustic guitar music, said sophomore music major Jared Bross.

"Classical guitar takes older styles from the classical period and the baroque period,

as well as pieces from Latin America, and is played on a nylon [string] acoustic guitar," he said.

Bross, along with 13 other guitar players, has been preparing since the beginning of the semester for the fall performance, said Professor Terry Isaacs, who has been teaching guitar lessons at OCCC for 14 years.

"Students have been rehearsing once a week and also on their own time outside of school," Isaacs said.

The concert will consist of 14 solo performances and three ensemble pieces played by a quartet including Bross, sophomore music major Matt Colston, junior music and photography major John Magelsen and guitar student Debbie Mauldin.

Colston said he has been playing for many years.

"I was 14 years old when my grandmother and I went to a pawn shop and bought me an acoustic guitar," he said.

"I love playing because it is

like when everything else lets you down, it doesn't."

The students are looking forward to performing in front of their peers. Their professor is glad to give them that chance.

"My favorite part about this concert is seeing students grow as musicians," Isaacs said.

"This concert is giving these students a chance to showcase their talent in front of a crowd."

The free concert is open to the public.

Concert-goers are likely to hear a new style of guitar music,

Bross said.

"It will broaden their horizons," he said. "People really don't know a lot about classical guitar and there are some really beautiful pieces they will be exposed to."

Magelsen said he encourages everyone to come.

For more information about the classical guitar concert or upcoming performances by guitar students, contact Isaacs by email at terry.l.isaacs@occc.edu or by phone at 405-691-6376.

System upgrade causes MineOnline shutdown

SAVANNAH BURKE MARCOS
News Writing Student

Brace yourselves OCCC students. Starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, MineOnline will go down and will remain out-of-service until early Tuesday morning, Nov. 26.

During this time, students will not be able to enroll in or drop classes, nor will they be able to pay tuition online, check financial aid status or request a transcript, said John Richardson, online marketing coordinator in the Marketing and Public Relations department.

All of the MineOnline data is currently stored in one database format, said Connie Drummond, OCCC programming coordinator and systems analyst.

The system upgrade will consist of converting to "more of an industry-standard database," Drummond said.

Richardson acknowledges the timing of the shutdown isn't perfect.

"Whenever you're doing big techno-

logical upgrades, there's never a good time to do them," he said.

He and Drummond pointed out the enrollment period is usually not heavy at this time of year.

Crystal Fry, premed major, is worried about the maintenance period affecting her schooling, mainly because of her upcoming move shortly after the site shutdown.

"I, for one, need it to pay my balance and also to transfer to El Paso next month and I can't do that if the site is down," Fry said.

While it may be inconvenient in some situations, there is still good news.

Student email accounts will still be operational and Moodle, the online learning system, will still be accessible, Richardson said.

Also, tuition bills can always be paid by cash or check in the Bursar's office on campus.

Employees in the registration area can provide assistance surrounding scheduling and enrollment.

The staff will be able to reserve student enrollment requests for processing once the new system is made available.

Faith Nowak, business accounting major, said she was involved in a long class discussion over the MineOnline system upgrade while in her Introduction to Business class.

Nowak's professor, Michelle Anderson, brought her husband, David Anderson, to discuss the matter with the students.

As Information Technology Infrastructure director at OCCC, he was able to answer some student questions, as well as provide them with alternative solutions for their MineOnline needs.

After being advised to take advantage of the Bursar's office and academic advisers during the maintenance period, Nowak said she was still frustrated.

"That would be a great alternative, except for the fact that most people, even me, don't have time out of classes to go do things like that," she said.

"I literally go to school every day and

then straight to work."

Nevertheless, she said, she came away from the class with a better understanding of the issue.

David Anderson reminded Nowak and her fellow students that the site shutdown would not occur during a popular enrollment period.

She said her classmates brought up the point that many students wait until the last minute to enroll anyway.

Nowak said next semester's payments aren't due until after the maintenance period, so it may or may not be a big issue for most students.

Richardson said the best advice is to plan ahead.

Looking over schedules, tuition bills, transcripts, and financial aid information as soon as possible, just to make sure, will help prevent being out of luck during the MineOnline shutdown from Nov. 21 through 26.

For more information, call David Anderson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7799, or email danderson@occc.edu.

Campus technology issues, concerns addressed

SPENCER GRANT
News Writing Student

OCCC Information Technology Infrastructure director David Anderson took questions about technological problems students have experienced on campus at the Nov. 7 meeting of The Leadership Council.

"My goal is to find out what

students think of the technology on campus and if there are any additions needed," he said.

Students voiced concerns about the lack of cell phone service in parts of the campus, specifically some areas on the first floor and in the engineering lab.

Some students also said it is time to upgrade some computers in the engineering

lab, referring to them as "long in the tooth" and "practically unusable."

He said his department is taking a survey of computers in the college and reporting to him about their performance.

Anderson said the report should be completed by the end of December.

"The goal of this program is to replace computers across

campus that need to be replaced," he said.

Individuals also voiced issues with accessing the Pioneer website.

Anderson said it appears to be a classroom or computer-specific issue.

Anderson said he wants to assist in phasing out chalkboards and dry-erase boards and replace them with smart-

boards throughout the school.

Smartboards are touch-screen-operated projectors that have been set in classrooms in order to make classes more interactive and modern.

The next TLC meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 in CU1.

For more information, email TLC Chair Megan Selby at megan.a.selby@my.occc.edu.

'How I Learned to Drive' explores real-life issues

CODY JONES

News Writing Student

Issues of control and manipulation, incest and the sexualization of young girls will be explored in OCCC's first play of the year, "How I Learned to Drive," written by Paula Vogel.

Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, and run through Saturday, Nov. 23, in the Bruce Owen Theater on campus.

"The purpose of art is to provoke and to get people out of their comfort zone," said theater Professor Brent Noel, who directs the play.

"I think that does this a bit. There are going to be people who say this is bordering on obscene or perverse.

"But we do 'MacBeth' and that's about murder and all kinds of nasty things. No one complains about that."

The play does deal with harsh real-life issues that may be uncomfortable for some to talk about, Noel said. To help those who think the subject matter may be too intense, Noel and the performers will take questions about the play and its themes on opening night after the play.

People from the psychology department and Student Support Services will be available to talk about the themes and issues the play deals with as part of the talkback session opening night.

A lobby display also will be presented and will be up for the duration of the play for those unable to come to the talkback session.

Theater major Tiffane Shorter plays the female lead Lil' Bit. She said she

hopes people come away with the message that forbidden sex between an older man and his teenage relative is not such a taboo in our society that people can't even discuss what the boundaries of sex are.

"It does really have the potential of being controversial and that's just because it makes people uncomfortable," Shorter said.

"It should make you uncomfortable because we should be asking these questions and talking about it.

"My mom and my grandparents told me I shouldn't have auditioned but I think it's really important. These are the kind of messages that we should be delving into."

Noel said the play has achieved critical acclaim.

"It's a Pulitzer Prize-winning play," he said. "It's a very well-written play. It's a very educational play and I think that's why we are here."

"I like theater that pushes the boundaries a bit and makes people deal with real-life social issues. I think this one does that extremely well."

Theater major Connor Marshall plays the male lead Uncle Peck. He said the play deals with the most intense subject matter he's ever been a part of.

"It challenges me as an actor to come from a different viewpoint," he said.

The darker issues the play brings up might keep some people from seeing it but the message behind the play is something everyone should be aware of.

"What are we willing to accept as a society?" Noel said. "Just because it's



KATIE THURMAN/PIONEER

Tiffane Shorter delivers the opening monologue of "How I Learned To Drive" on Nov. 13 as part of a Brown Bag lunch hosted by Student Life and the theater department. Behind her is student actor Connor Marshall.

taboo, does that mean it's not worthy of discussion?"

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for general admission. The Nov. 21 performance is free with an OCCC ID and will include the talkback session.

Controversial play explored via workshops

KATIE THURMAN

Editor

editor@occc.edu

In preparation for OCCC's production of Paula Vogel's "How I Learned to Drive," the theater department teamed up with Student Support Services and Student Life to present two sessions of informational workshops about the play.

On Nov. 12, theater Professor Brent Noel led a roundtable discussion about the play which deals with issues such as pedophilia and abuse.

"How I Learned to Drive" has been challenged by some and praised by others since its original production debut

in 1997.

At the roundtable, Noel brought up the subject of whether the arts could be used to "stimulate discussion on campus" of subjects that might seem hard to talk about or may even be considered taboo.

Noel said he hoped to get students to think about "how one can utilize arts" as a way to start a healthy and helpful dialogue about "sensitive subjects."

Students and faculty discussed what is considered art and what the benefits of the arts — specifically theater — are.

Participants discussed art as an outlet, the therapeutic effects of practicing or viewing

art, and the benefit of literature and art in allowing students to explore and learn about themselves as well as others.

Brenda Valencia, Occupational Therapy Assistant major, said she supports the arts as a creative outlet for real-life issues and advocates discussions about hard-hitting issues at OCCC because "[School] is a safe setting" for such conversations to take place.

On Nov. 13, two members of the cast presented a monologue and scene from the play and then sat down with Noel to give students some insight as to what it's like to be a part of putting on a play like "How I Learned to Drive."

They explained how the production helped them gain insight into their role as spectators.

Noel asked attendees to consider the boundaries of comfort and discomfort the audience will be faced with, and what those boundaries mean.

"One of the ways you get people out of their comfort zone is to [present them with] something that is going to give them a bit of a jolt," Noel said.

"It happens in class when I try to get students to think in new ways. It happens in the theater when I'm trying to get young actors to react.

"We're ... taught to limit our reactions and to hide our

feelings, and in the theater, it's the opposite. We want to bring those out."

He said there's a fine line between being provocative and pushing the limit. Noel asked attendees to consider why certain things make them uncomfortable and to seek out value and learning in that discomfort.

He said being forced to look at something, such as the sensitive content in the play, from an objective stance like that of an audience member can be a learning experience for them.

"How I Learned To Drive" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21 through 23 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

THEATER WILL SEAT 1,070 WHEN IT OPENS ITS DOORS NEXT MONTH

Campus construction nearly completed

JOEL VIEZCAS

News Writing Student

The date for completion of the new theater and related sidewalks, plaza and landscaping is now anticipated to be early in December, said President Paul Sechrist. The theater will seat 1,070 people.

Construction includes an allée, a shaded walkway with lighting and landscaping leading from the main entrance of the Main building to the front entrance of the state-of-the-art Visual and Performing Arts Theater.

A tour of the facility reveals its grandeur. The sheer volume and open space are evident when walking through the atrium with light streaming in from the three-stories-tall glass panels that define the west wall.

"We are very proud of the new facility," said Cultural Arts Director Lemuel Bardeguez. "It will have a cultural impact on Oklahoma City."

Funding for the \$21 million theater comes from a variety of sources — with student fees contributing \$8 million toward the total cost.

In 2007, students in The Leadership Council voted in favor of paying a \$3 per-credit-hour increase to the facility fee for construction of the theater, said John Boyd, vice president for Business and Finance.

Bardeguez said student support was critical in getting the project moving almost eight years ago.

This was an important time for OCCC to accomplish a dream it had for many years, Bardeguez said.

"We wanted to have a great community college with a great performing arts center. Students realized the value that had," he said. "Without the students, the facility would not be here."

Bardeguez expects the theater to be a training facility for students in the performing arts and hospitality fields.

"The significant amount the students have invested for the theater is definitely worth it," he said. "We would like the facility to one day be a working lab for students to get preparation for their future careers."

Boyd said the allée, or walkway, is expected to cost a little more than \$1 million, all of which came from the South Oklahoma City Area School District building fund levy.

He said the remaining funding came from the following sources:

- Section 13 Offset Funds: \$2.8 million. Boyd said Section 13 offset funds are provided by the Legislature for campus maintenance and construction.

- Master Lease Real Property Funds: \$4 million. Boyd said this fund is a financing program under which the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may finance acquisition of or improvements to, or refinance or restructure outstanding obligations for real property.

- Auxiliary Funds: \$3 million. Boyd said auxiliary funds include Bookstore revenue, facility fees (\$3 per credit hour of which was used to support the \$8 million bond resolution approved by students), the



The date for completion of the new theater and related sidewalks, plaza and landscaping is anticipated to be early in December. The theater — shown in a rendering below — will seat 1,070 people. (ERIN PEDEN/PIONEER)

student activity fee, Arts Festival, Food Services and other activities of OCCC that are not related to education and general expenditures. • Private Donations: \$1.9 million.

- South OKC Area School District Ad Valorem: \$1 million. A portion of ad valorem, or property taxes, paid by South Oklahoma City residents is designated for OCCC.

Sechrist said the theater space also will include the Inasmuch Art Gallery. Displayed art will be for sale and will serve as a fundraiser for student scholarships.

The first exhibit in the new gallery will feature the work of Desmond Mason, an artist with Oklahoma connections. The opening for the art show will be the evening of Saturday, Jan. 18.

Art will be outside as well as inside.

Private funds have been raised to create and install a large outdoor sculpture that will be located in the plaza near the front of the building, Sechrist said.

The sculpture, "Crescendo," was designed by local artist Colin Rosebrook. It will be unveiled at the plaza-naming ceremony late in the afternoon on Thursday, Jan. 16, according to an email from Sechrist.

Project Manager Larry Barnes said construction took a little longer than expected.

"You can't rush this," Barnes said. "You can push in early stages of a job but when you get down to the



final finishes, you don't want to push those.

"We need to make sure it is done right. My job is for quality assurance during this process," he said.

Sechrist said once the building is finished, move-in will begin.

"It will take a few weeks to complete the installation of furniture and equipment to ready the theater for events," Sechrist said.

"Presently, the first event in the new space is the GED Commencement, scheduled for Friday evening, Jan. 10. Many other activities, including OCCC choral concerts, pinning ceremonies and performances by outside groups, are already scheduled throughout the spring."

The formal dedication ceremony will be a part of the Spring Semester Prep and Planning Week, when professors return to work after the new year.

The ceremony will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, in the lobby of the theater.

"We are planning tours of the facility directly following the ceremony," Sechrist said.

SPORTS

Steady as she goes

Graduation Service Advisor Meaghan Santos demonstrates the tree pose in Kathie Hibbs' yoga class. The class meets from noon to 12:45 p.m. each Monday and Friday in 1C1B in the Wellness Center. For a complete listing of class times and other classes available, visit www.occc.edu/rf/wellness-classes.



GRANT VANWINKLE/PIONEER

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• Now through Nov. 20:

Each Wednesday until Nov. 20, a basketball open run will take place. There is no registration or set teams and players do not have to show up each week. For more information, call 405-682-7860.

• Fall semester:

Visit the Recreation and Fitness website at www.occc.edu/rf/swimming-diving to enroll in a number of events held in the college's Aquatic Center or call 405-682-7860 to find out about Aquatic Center events.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone to be directed to a list of OCCC Intramural events, complete with the most current updates.

(Free QR code reader apps can be found online or in app stores on smart phones. Follow the directions for the app you download.)

All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue. Email your news to sportswriter@occc.edu.

SPORTS | The season starts Jan. 4 and runs through Feb. 22

Youth winter basketball leagues forming

GRANT VANWINKLE

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

Registration for the 2014 Winter Youth Basketball League is under way, said Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

"The season will begin Jan. 4 and will run until Feb. 22," Wright said. "Each team will play eight games."

Wright said games will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

"These games include four divisions for both boys and girls in this league consisting of third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders."

Wright said the age cut-off date is Sept. 1.

"The player must be 8-years-old by the age cut-off date," he said. "(In addition), players 13-years-old prior to age cut-off date (also) are ineligible."

Wright said pre-formed teams also can join the league. In fact, he said, half of the teams entered are pre-formed.

"Teams can have up to 11 players ...," he said. "The individual registration fee is \$55 and that fee includes an OCCC game jersey."

"[For] team registration, that fee is \$390 but the organized teams must supply their own game jersey."

Wright said players must bring a copy of their birth certificates to registration.

Early registration is from Oct. 1 through Nov. 22, he said.

Late registration is from Nov. 25 through Dec. 6, Wright said, with an additional \$10 fee for individuals

“These games include four divisions for both boys and girls in this league consisting of third, fourth and fifth graders.”

—MATTHEW WRIGHT
INTRAMURAL SPORTS ASSISTANT

and an additional \$20 fee for pre-formed teams.

Wright said that each team will be allowed a one-hour practice, one day each week. It will be up to each team to set up a practice time.

"The gym will be closed at 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for youth basketball league practices," he said.

"Wednesday they will be open for intramural games."

Wright said to enroll, call 405-682-7860, go online to www.occc.edu/rf or visit the Recreation and Fitness office located on the first floor of the Main Building.

For more information, call Sports and Recreational Specialist Eric Watson or Wright at 405-682-7860.

Switched SD card, intoxicated man reported to cops

KATIE THURMAN
Editor
editor@occc.edu

A lost or missing SD card and an intoxicated visitor in the library kept campus police busy on Oct. 29.

Student Kevin Stout reported the SD card in his phone had been replaced without his permission or knowledge.

According to a report filed by Officer Gordon Nelson, Stout

had been in a study group in SEM 1D2. Stout said sometime after this, he tried to turn his phone on and the screen displayed a message that said the SD card was blank. Stout then reportedly checked the card and discovered that his 32 GB Samsung SD card had been replaced with a 16 GB card of an unknown brand.

Stout said while he was in his study group, he had placed his phone on the table and left

it there until he went to a lab. Stout said he left the room on three occasions but each time he returned, his phone was in the same place as when he left.

Stout gave Gordon the names of the people in his study group. Stout placed the value of his SD card at approximately \$69.99.

On the same day, Officer Ronald Ventresca was dispatched to the library regarding an intoxicated person who was causing a disturbance.

The man, Jack Johnson, a visitor who had prior police contacts on campus, was seated at a computer. Johnson told Ventresca he was getting ready to leave and told Ventresca he was "looking at stuff [he] shouldn't have been looking at." Ventresca reported that Johnson was visibly intoxicated.

When Ventresca told Johnson to follow him outside to talk, the man twice refused,

then reached for his backpack. Ventresca said he then took control of Johnson's arm and Johnson became even more resistant.

Ventresca said Johnson shouted obscenities as he was escorted from the library.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747. For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-7872.

SAD: Students should seek help when symptoms appear

Continued from page 1

feels something has changed and he or she doesn't feel quite right, that's the time to seek help.

"If they notice that they're undergoing some changes or they understand that they're more susceptible, [they should act immediately] and get treatment," Turner said.

Turner said, while SAD typically tends to fade with the departure of the winter season, there are things that can be done to alleviate the symptoms of the mood disorder when it occurs.

"Individuals may be helped by installing [an ultraviolet] light in their homes and getting that exposure.

"They may be able to benefit from various talk therapies to get a better sense of what's happening to them, because if we know what's going on, we can handle things better."

Turner said any student who may be affected by SAD also can get counseling at OCCC.

"Of course, [students] have access to our licensed counselors on staff," she said. "If it's determined they might need something more, the counselors can make appropriate referrals."

In some cases, according to www.aafp.org, the first step to identifying SAD is to identify major (or recurrent) depression in a patient.

A doctor will then use a variety of screenings to determine whether the patient's depression is directly correlated to a certain season.

Seasonal depression is more common among women than men, but the disorder can affect anyone, according to the website.

Turner said the important thing is to be aware that SAD is real and affects many people. Treating the disorder is

of the utmost urgency she said.

"Mental health is as treatable as our physical health ... and we shouldn't hesitate if we feel like something's wrong ... because we're talking about

our quality of life and our overall well being and those are important."

For more information, contact Turner at 405-682-7544, mturner@occc.edu or go by 1F8 in the Main Building.

In most cases, seasonal affective disorder symptoms appear during late fall or early winter and go away during the sunnier days of spring and summer. Symptoms may start out mild and become more severe as the season progresses.

Fall and winter seasonal affective disorder (winter depression) symptoms include:

- Depression
- Hopelessness
- Anxiety
- Loss of energy
- Heavy, "leaden" feeling in the arms or legs
- Social withdrawal
- Oversleeping
- Loss of interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Appetite changes, especially a craving for foods high in carbohydrates
- Weight gain
- Difficulty concentrating

It's normal to have days when you feel down. But if you feel down for days at a time and you can't seem to get motivated to do activities you normally enjoy, see your doctor. This is particularly important if you notice your sleep patterns and appetite have changed or if you feel hopeless, think about suicide or find yourself turning to alcohol for comfort or relaxation. —www.mayoclinic.com

Christmas: Student volunteers a big help to community

Continued from page 1

director.

OCCC students will be taking a service trip to Christmas Connection on from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 23.

"We have 1,000 families that we will be serving at Christmas," Dutton said.

Christmas Connection helps families through Christmas Shopping Days, which begins for seniors on Dec. 5 and families Dec. 10 through 14.

Dutton said the shopping days allow families to come inside the 16,000-square-foot

warehouse that resembles a department store and pick out free gifts for their family.

She said the store has to be rearranged so the process will go more smoothly. Students will assist in that process.

"... That's a critical time for us," Dutton said. "We are extremely dependent on volunteers ..."

Dutton said students can expect to sort incoming donations, hang and size clothing, stock shelves and perform clerical duties.

"They do a little bit of everything...," she said.

The non-profit organization has two full-time and one part-time staff members but relies heavily on volunteers.

"We couldn't do what we do without volunteers," Dutton said.

Micah Payne, nursing major, said she would like to go on a trip in the future.

"You're helping out the community and ... helping those people who are needy realize there are people out there who want to help them and they have the support that they need."

Summer Stevens, psychol-

ogy major, said she views the trip as beneficial.

"It helps out the families in need, and I'm there sure are a lot of people looking for volunteering hours and community service hours ..."

Dutton said OCCC students provide a real service for Christmas Connection.

"Large groups of students come two or three times a year. There is a constant flow of OCCC students volunteering their time at Christmas Connection ..."

Dutton said students are encouraged to volunteer because

of the benefit to them and the community.

"It's an opportunity to give back," she said. "It's an opportunity to be with other students and get better acquainted with other students, and just to help as a community as we approach the holiday season," she said.

The deadline to sign up is by noon on Nov. 22. To sign up, choose the Service Learning tab on the Student Life website at www.occc.edu/studentlife/serviceday.

For more information, call 405-682-7523 or visit www.occc.edu/studentlife/index.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

I before e...



LORI VALENTINE/PIONEER

Communications Lab Assistant Nick Webb helps Physical Therapy assistant major Shawn Slaughter with grammar rules. The lab offers students free writing advice and tutoring. Lab hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

COMMUNITY | The Health Professions Club prepares students for future, sponsor says

Nursing students share experiences

LAUREN DANIEL
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

"If I can do nursing school, then I think everybody can do it," said nursing student Sara Belmir to a group of about 40 during the Health Professions Club meeting Nov. 7.

The HPC strives to help health students get into professional schools, said Steve Kash, professor and sponsor of the club.

Belmir and nursing student Sanaa Qarqour spoke about their journey in the OCCC nursing program.

"Nursing school will take your brain to thinking in a different level," Belmir said.

She said being in the program takes a large amount of perseverance and sacrifice. "It's doable, it just [depends on] dedication, hard work, and how bad you want this," she said.

Kash said student success is the focus of the activities for the club. "Our director, right now at least, is (dedicated) to bringing successful former students back to talk to our students," he said.

Students currently in professional school have been invited back to speak to students.

"I think it's real important for our pre-nursing and pre-professional students to actually meet with former OCCC students rather than just a professor or representative of another school," Kash said.

"I think that's a very powerful statement— to be able to talk in a room with somebody who is in a place

where you want to be in another year or so," he said.

Nursing major and HPC member Tony Feehen joined the club because he thought it would help him with his career.

"I felt it would correlate with my nursing program—my ambitions to become a nurse," Feehen said. "It's always nice to get a different perspective from other people going through it."

Feehen recommends the club to anyone in a health-related field.

Kash said students don't have to major in a health profession to join the HPC or attend their meetings and seminars. "Whether you're a science person or not, whether you're an official member of the club or not... it's basically an open-door policy," Kash said.

Nursing major Srilan Maranan said he would like to join the club.

"[The meeting] was very informative," Maranan said.

The willingness of former students to speak at club meetings positively represents OCCC, Kash said.

"I think this is a very tightly-knit campus, and you only discover that when you find no lack of folks who want to come back and talk to the students on campus and they are not compensated for it in any way," Kash said. "They are just doing it out of the kindness of their heart and the fact that they feel strongly about their alma mater."

For more information, visit their website at www.occc.edu/studentlife/clubs or call Kash at 405-682-1611, ext. 7169 or by email at skash@occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Spring Tuition Fee Waiver applications available

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the spring 2014 semester are available in the Financial Aid Office. Make sure that you have attached an Academic Transcript and that you are enrolled in the corresponding semester for at least six hours before submitting your tuition Fee Waiver to the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 20. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 682-7525.

Students experience effects of alcohol

There will be an informational booth about alcohol awareness from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, in the Union Foyer Area 31. Beer goggles will be available to students who visit the table as an activity to demonstrate the effects of alcohol on motor skills. For more information, email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

Attend the next Leadership Council meeting

All students are welcome to attend the next bi-weekly meeting of OCCC's The Leadership Council for student clubs and organizations from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, in CU1. For more information, email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

Student talent spotlight of guitar performance

OCCC classical guitar students will have solo performances and guitar quartet performances from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 in the Visual and Performing Arts Center, room 132. Music will range from traditional classical music to modern contemporary music performed in a classical style on the guitar. For more information, contact Terry Isaacs at terry.l.isaacs@occc.edu or at 691-6376.

Pathways NHS Thanksgiving dessert sale

Pathways Middle College High School National Honor Society will host their 12th annual Thanksgiving dessert sale from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, and Tuesday, Nov. 26, in room 3L6 in the main building. Purchases will need to be pre-ordered by filling out a dessert form in room 3L6. For more information, call Taymeke Whyte at 405-628-7758.

Author Connie Suttle to speak on campus

Students who are interested in writing and publishing will get the opportunity to hear from author Connie Suttle from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18 in CU 2 and 3. She will discuss the difficulties of being an independent author and share her plans for future publishings. For more information, email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

College Poets & Writers club meeting

OCCC's only writing club meets each week from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. on Wednesdays in room AH 2E1. The group helps writers grow and express themselves. For more information, contact club President Maria F. Rivera at CPW@my.occc.edu.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to communitywriter@occc.edu or visit the Pioneer office located in 1F2 AH.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Two 40" CRT televisions. Both just came from a TV repair shop so are in excellent condition. Great for a gaming TV in the kids' room. \$30 each. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

FOR SALE: This space. For just \$8 per week, you could advertise your business here. For more rate information, email adman@occc.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Bed liner for standard long bed pickup w/ tailgate liner. \$75. GC. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

FOR SALE: Women's professional clothing, sizes 18W, to 22W. The lot includes 3 dresses, 2 2-piece dresses, and 9 skirt suits. All 23 pieces for \$100. Text 405-245-7319 for pics or more info.

FOR SALE: Neiman Marcus Robert Rodriguez collection size 14 strapless cocktail dress. Never worn. Still has store tags. \$50. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

FOR SALE: New size 26 jeans — never been worn. Brands include Vans, Levi's and Zumiez. \$10 per pair. Retail for \$40 each. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

FOR SALE: "Star Wars" Hayden Christensen autographed photo in plastic protector & Certificate of Authenticity. \$60. Text 405-818-0083 for more information.

FOR SALE: HP office jet all-in-one printer. New color and B&W cartridges. Power cord. Works great. \$50. 405-602-6499 or 405-568-5996.

FOR SALE: Golden oak corner TV cabinet. Gold trim, glass door on power storage section. Gently used. \$50. 405-602-6499 or 405-568-5996.

FOR SALE: Netgear N300 wireless router. Great for setting up home worksites. Used for only one month. Comes with power cord and Ethernet card. \$35. 405-602-6499 or 405-568-5996.

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

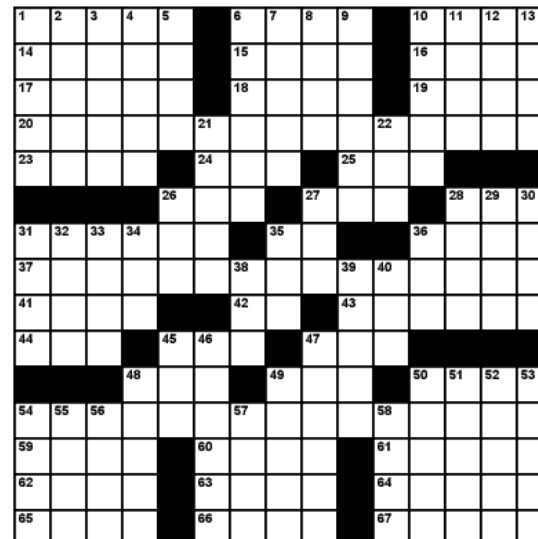
'A As In...' Crossword by Dave Fisher

Across

1. Evaluate
6. Theatrical piece
10. Fix a leak
14. Capital of East Pakistan
15. B ___ Railroad
16. Money in Milan
17. Make use of
18. Gas sign?
19. Mayberry man
20. Variety for 37 across
23. Looks at
24. Places where scrubs are worn
25. Cell user?
26. Actress Lupino
27. Wear and tear
28. Granola grain
31. Be there
35. Hesitant's word
36. A convex shape
37. Pioneer, Chapman
41. Chills
42. Exists
43. Basic shelter
44. Reel holder
45. Synonym for 38 down
47. ___-de-mer (seasickness)
48. King Kong, e.g.
49. Entertaining
50. It's played by an "angelo"
54. Baker's option for 20 across
59. Hot zone
60. Pupil's colorful place
61. Zones
62. Go over
63. Shower material
64. ___prosequi (court-record entry)
65. Facile
66. Shout
67. Map in a map

Down

1. Wise saying



2. ___ Truffle (Beatles song)
3. Bathroom item, maybe
4. Sulphuric and hydrochloric
5. Harvard rival
6. Bullock of "Speed"
7. Supports for proposers, perhaps
8. TV's "American ___"
9. Restorative drinks
10. Flat area
11. Type of type
12. Language of Pakistan
13. Talese and others
21. Simpleton
22. Miler Sebastian
26. Lodge
27. Guy at the plate
28. Sign
29. Help a hustler
30. Kind of list
31. Opened a crack
32. Like some orders
33. Fall follower?
34. Newark to Cape Cod (dir.)

35. FedEx rival
36. Second-largest English-speaking country
38. Synonym for 45 across
39. 10 down to a gaucho
40. Slippery one
45. Wall St. debut
46. Funny business
47. Clam's relative
48. Irk
49. Perk
50. Cook's cover
51. Cambodian dollars
52. Norman Vincent ___
53. Something in the plus column
54. Went fast
55. Place for 60 across
56. Commies
57. Shallowest Great Lake
58. Indian princess

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Professor enlightens class about homeland

LAUREN DANIEL
News Writing Student

The majority of deaths in Africa do not come from diseases, AIDS, or starvation, said Germain Pichop, economics professor and native of Cameroon. He spoke Oct. 22 to a class of 20 News Writing students about the common misconceptions about Africa.

He said despite the depiction by the media about many African children dying from AIDS, that is not the leading cause of death.

"People end up dying more from traffic accidents than ... from diseases," Pichop said.

"(Also) more people die from malaria than AIDS ... people don't take it seriously until it is too late and then they die."

Pichop also cautioned students about giving money to organizations that claim they are helping people in Africa.

"One of the misconceptions is that giving aid will really help Africa," he said.

He said quite a few non-profit organizations do not actually give money to the cause they claim they are helping.

Pichop said about 90 percent of the money raised returns to the company that raised it.

"Really, the people who need help are not being helped."

Pichop also spoke about child soldiers in Africa. Although he said he had never seen a child soldier, he said



Germain Pichop

there are a few places where that still occurs.

In those areas, he said, the young soldiers are forced to fight against the government so warlords can get all of the resources the country has.

He said those areas are few. "It's not like Africa is an open conflict zone."

He said most African countries have abundant resources; however, the government makes it hard for wealth to be distributed.

"... Many African countries have bad governance and cor-

ruption.

"The people in power tend to be very rich and the rest of the population is very poor, usually with no middle class."

However, he said, education is very important in African households.

"Families take the education of their kids very seriously."

He said boys and girls are treated equally and most families send their children to school.

"Women are more successful in school," he said. "They tend to take it more seriously than men."

Pichop came to Oklahoma on a Fulbright scholarship, where he attended Oklahoma State University and completed his doctorate in 2003.

"I was lucky enough to get a Fulbright scholarship ..."

He said he grew up working on a coffee farm with his parents, six brothers and one sister.

Pichop said he is now living the "American dream."

"One thing that I like about the culture here is that if you work hard, you succeed. It's not always that way in Africa."



Cameroon is in the west Central Africa region. It is often referred to as "Africa in miniature." Natural features include beaches, deserts, mountains, rainforests and savannas. Cameroon is home to more than 200 different linguistic groups. French and English are the official languages. —www.google.com

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